

DEC 26 2006

AUTO/0512

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-32, 34-37, 39-55, and 57 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 7, 33, 38, 55 and 58-63 are canceled. Claims 1, 32, 34-37, 39-55, and 57 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is requested for the reasons discussed below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112***

In an Advisory Action dated December 12, 2006, the Examiner noted that "the amendment to claim 63 does appear to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph rejection and 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection." *Advisory Action*, Continuation Sheet. With this submission, Applicant has amended claims 1, 32, 55, and 57 to incorporate the amendment originally submitted for claim 63.<sup>1</sup> As amended, claim 1 recites a limitation of "displaying the objects on said constraint at the established locations for the objects." Claims 32, 55, and 57 are amended to recite a similar limitation. Applicant's specification includes numerous examples of an object being displayed on a constraint at locations established using a set of spacing parameters, as recited by the present amendment. For example, Figure 4B shows a viewing pane 342 which "provides a viewing area for visually depicting the spacing of objects within a constraint." *Application*, 16:4-7. In the example of Figure 4B, three box objects are shown being mapped onto the constraint as using the spacing parameters entered in a dialog box. Another example is shown in Figure 7B which provides examples of object spacing using a tree object placed along a linear constraint using different spacing parameters. Namely, one spacing where the spacing is defined by the center of the object (the spacing of trees on constraint 750) and one where the spacing is defined using an objects' bounding box (the spacing of tree object along constraint 752). Accordingly, Applicants agree with the Examiner's conclusion that the amendment to claim 1, 32, 55, and 57 complies with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

<sup>1</sup> Note, other than a different final step, claims 1 and 63, as pending prior to this submission, recited the same limitations. With this submission, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite the final step originally recited by claim 63. Accordingly, claim 63 is cancelled with this response.

AUTO/0512

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101***

Regarding claims 1, 3-6, 8-32, 34-37, 39-55, and 57:

In an Advisory Action dated December 12, 2006 the Examiner noted that "the amendment to claim 63 does appear to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph rejection and 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection." *Advisory Action*, Continuation Sheet. Applicant agrees and has amended claims 1, 32, 55, and 57 to reflect the amendment originally submitted for claim 63, Thus, Applicant submits that the amendments made by this response address the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection and that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of same.

Regarding claims 32, 34-37, 39-54, and 57

In an Advisory Action dated December 12, 2006 the Examiner noted that "the amendments to claims 32, 34-37, and 39-54 appear to overcome the signal portion of the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection of these claims set forth at pages 3-5 of the final rejection. Applicant agrees and submits with this response the same amendments to these claims originally submitted in a response to Final Rejection.

Accordingly, for all the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claims are in condition for allowance and, respectfully, requests allowance of same.

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

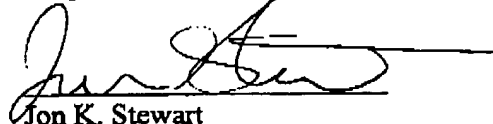
DEC 26 2006

AUTO/0512

CONCLUSION

Having addressed all issues set out in the Advisory Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Jon K. Stewart

Registration No. 54,945

PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.

3040 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1500

Houston, Texas 77056

Telephone: (713) 623-4844

Facsimile: (713) 623-4846

Attorney for Applicant